AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1-37   (Canceled)

1   38.   (Currently amended) A computer implemented client method for
2   dynamically managing a user software license, the method comprising:
3   executing, on a computer, a software program comprising a plurality of
4   features, wherein a license for a single feature is required to access a respective
5   feature among the features;
6   receiving ~~an action from the user~~a request to access ~~an additional~~ the
7   feature ~~for an existing software program, wherein the additional feature provides~~
8   ~~an additional functionality for the software program~~;
9   responsive to the received request, ~~receiving the action from the user,~~
10   sending ~~a request~~ to a server computer a request for an authorization to access the
11   ~~additional~~ feature ~~of the software program~~, wherein the authorization request
12   ~~including~~includes license verification information concerning ~~the user;~~a user
13   associated with the software program;
14   receiving from the server computer the ~~additional~~ feature ~~of the software~~
15   ~~program~~ and current software license information concerning the ~~user from the~~
16   ~~server computer;~~user; and
17   storing the received current software license information concerning the
18   user, wherein the received current software license information indicates that the
19   user is licensed to run the ~~additional~~feature on the computer.

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1   39.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the received

2 current software license information concerning the user indicates that the user is

3 not licensed to run the software program, the method further comprising

4 performing ~~at least one step from a group of steps comprising~~ one or more of:

5   displaying a message to the user indicating that the user is not licensed to

6 run the software program;

7   providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a license to run the

8 software program;

9   allowing the user to run the software program without a license for a

10 limited time only;

11   allowing the user to run the software program without a license a limited

12 number of times only; and

13   terminating the software program, such that the user cannot run the

14 software program.

1   40.   (Previously presented) The client method of claim 38 wherein:

2   the received current software license information concerning the user

3 comprises modified license information concerning the user.

1   41.   (Previously presented) The client method of claim 40 wherein the

2 modified license information concerning the user comprises a user software

3 license from a group of user software licenses comprising:

4   an activated user software license;

5   a deactivated user software license;

6   an extended user software license;

7   a restricted user software license;

8   an upgraded user software license; and

9   a downgraded user software license.

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1   42.   (Previously presented) The client method of claim 38 wherein
2   receiving current software license information concerning the user includes a
3   hardware configuration identifier of a computer associated with the user, the
4   method further comprising:
5   creating a current hardware configuration identifier of the computer
6   associated with the user; and
7   comparing the received hardware configuration identifier to the current
8   hardware configuration identifier.

1   43.   (Previously presented) The client method of claim 42 further
2   comprising:
3   responsive to a difference between the received hardware configuration
4   identifier and the current hardware configuration identifier being below a
5   predetermined threshold, allowing the user to run the software program.

1   44.   (Previously presented) The client method of claim 42 further
2   comprising:
3   responsive to a difference between the received hardware configuration
4   identifier and the current hardware configuration identifier not being below a
5   predetermined threshold, terminating the software program, such that the user
6   cannot run the software program.

1   45.   (Previously presented) The client method of claim 42 further
2   comprising:
3   responsive to a difference between the received hardware configuration
4   identifier and the current hardware configuration identifier not being below a
5   predetermined threshold, performing at least one step from a group of steps
6   comprising:

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7   displaying a message to the user indicating that the user is not licensed to

8   run the software program;

9   providing the user with an opportunity to purchase a license to run the

10   software program;

11   allowing the user to run the software program without a license for a

12   limited time only; and

13   allowing the user to run the software program without a license a limited

14   number of times only.

1   46.   (Currently amended) A <u>non-transitory </u>computer readable medium

2   containing instructions that, when executed, ~~cause~~ <u>causes </u>the computer system to

3   perform desired actions for dynamically managing a user software license,

4   wherein the instructions comprise:

5   <u>program code for executing, on the computer system, a software program</u>

6   <u>comprising a plurality of features, wherein a license for a single feature is</u>

7   <u>required to access a respective feature among the features;</u>

8   program code for receiving ~~an action from the user~~<u>a request</u> to access <u>the</u>

9   ~~an additional ~~feature ~~for an existing software program, wherein the additional~~

10   ~~feature provides an additional functionality for the software program;~~

11   program code for, responsive <u>the received request, </u>~~to receiving the action~~

12   ~~from the user, ~~sending ~~a request ~~to a server computer <u>a request </u>for an

13   authorization to access the ~~additional ~~feature ~~of the software program~~, <u>wherein </u>the

14   <u>authorization </u>request ~~including ~~<u>includes </u>license verification information

15   concerning ~~the user;~~<u>a user associated with the software program;</u>

16   program code for receiving <u>from the server computer </u>the ~~additional~~

17   feature ~~of the software program ~~and current software license information

18   concerning the ~~user from the server computer;~~<u>user;</u> and

19   program code for storing <u>the </u>received current software license information

20   concerning the user, wherein the received current software license information

21   indicates that the user is licensed to run the ~~additional ~~feature.

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1   47.   (Currently amended) A computer system for dynamically

2 managing a user software license, the computer system comprising:

3   a processor;

4   a memory;

5   a mechanism for executing, on the computer, a software program

6 comprising a plurality of features, wherein a license for a single feature is

7 required to access a respective feature among the features;

8   a mechanism for receiving ~~an action from the user~~a request to access the

9 ~~an additional~~ feature ~~for an existing software program, wherein the additional~~

10 ~~feature provides an additional functionality for the software program;~~

11   a mechanism for, responsive to the received request, ~~receiving the action~~

12 ~~from the user,~~ sending a request to a server computer a request for an

13 authorization to access the ~~additional~~ feature ~~of the software program~~, wherein the

14 authorization request ~~including~~ includes license verification information

15 concerning ~~the user;~~a user associated with the software program;

16   a mechanism for receiving from the server computer, the ~~additional~~

17 feature ~~of the software program~~ and current software license information

18 concerning the ~~user from the server computer;~~user; and

19   a mechanism for storing the received current software license information

20 concerning the user, wherein the received current software license information

21 indicates that the user is licensed to run the ~~additional~~ feature.